8. **Expenditure.**—In my Address last year, I had adverted to the need for equalising the revenue and expenditure of the State. With this view, the budget of ordinary expenditure for 1091 was framed for Rs. 1,48,88,800, or Rs. 51,700 less than the anticipated revenue and receipts. The salient feature of the budget was the reduction of expenditure under 'Public Works', which had risen to as much as 25·4 per cent of the aggregate revenue in 1090. It was found necessary to reduce the grants for new works, save in exceptional cases, and to limit the operation of the department to the completion of works already started and the maintenance of works previously completed. Even so, the expenditure on public works amounted to 18·5 per cent of the aggregate ordinary expenditure of the year. At the same time, the growing needs of progressive departments were adequately met. The actual expenditure of the year, including the outlay on Railway Extension, fell short of the total estimate of Rs. 1,60,38,800 by Rs. 4,14,634.

9. **Debenture Loan.**—You are already aware that the original estimate for the Extension of the Railway from Quilon to Trivandrum was Bh. Rs. 29,72,252 and that the Government had resolved to finance the scheme wholly from the general revenues of the State. Owing to the rise in the price of materials in consequence of the War and to other causes, this estimate had to be revised, and the revised estimate, submitted by the South Indian Railway Company, amounting to Rs. 54,02,579, led Government to seriously consider whether they would be justified in continuing their policy of meeting the necessary expenditure from the small balance in their hands. Having commenced the construction of the line and already incurred heavy liabilities in the prosecution of this reproductive work, the Government, following the example of other advanced States, resolved to float a Debenture Loan, to meet a portion of the additional outlay required. The loan bears interest at 5 per cent per annum and is repayable at par after 25 years. It was confined to persons resident in Travancore. The amount raised was Rs. 14,49,000.

MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.

10. **Seasonal Prospects.**—The fairly even distribution of rain in 1091 was generally favourable to paddy cultivation. The crops injuriously affected were pepper and sugar-cane, which must be attributed to the unusually heavy rains in the latter part of 1090.

11. **Land Revenue.**—The gross demand rose from Rs. 35,98,727 in 1090 to Rs. 36,62,358 in 1091, *i. e.*, by Rs. 63,631, and the net demand, after deducting the remissions, from Rs. 35,84,798 to Rs. 36,54,327, *i. e.*, by Rs. 69,529. There was a rise of Rs. 97,837 in the gross demand under garden and dry lands, being the net result of an increase in the revenue on account of the extension of cultivation and of a decrease consequent on the transfer, from the Land Revenue Department, of the *Thanathuchitta* lands and trees in the possession of other departments, together with the revenue accruing therefrom, to those departments, which came into full operation during 1091. The balance pending collection rose from Rs. 1,09,075 to Rs. 1,85,435. The increase, however, is only apparent, as the bulk of the balance represents the *tharavila* charged on *puduval* and other lands, which was allowed to be recovered in easy instalments, as a measure of relief to the ryots.

12. The Land Revenue Manual was brought into full operation from the beginning of 1091. The *puduval* Rules were amended so as to enable the Tahsildars to dispose of *puduvals* by auction sale, in the event of the failure of the applicants to pay the *tharavila* fixed. Pattahs issued for *puduval* lands were exempted from the payment of stamp duty. The provision in the Waste-Land Rules regarding the recovery of the value of trees (other than Royal) was a serious impediment to the free flow of applications for such lands in the Devicolam Division. It has been now ordered that the value of such trees need be paid only if they are to be used for building purposes within, or removed outside, the limits of the grant.

13. **Circuit Work of Peishkars.**—Government have, for some time past, observed that the tours of the Peishkars could be made more effective and beneficial to

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the public. It has been accordingly ruled that these officers, including the Commissioner, Devicolam Division, should ordinarily publish their tour programmes beforehand ; afford, while they are at taluk head-quarters, full opportunity to the ryots to represent their grievances and dispose of them promptly on personal hearing; meet the leading men of the taluk, ascertain their views on public questions and enlist their co-operation in matters affecting the people in general ; and last, but not least, make it a point to visit the interior and outlying parts of each taluk, so as to obtain first-hand information regarding the condition and requirements of those localities. The Land Revenue Department is the back-bone of the administration and the sympathy and co-operation of the highest officers of the department cannot but be appreciated by the people.

14. **Survey.**— The re-survey of the Nedumangad taluk made substantial progress. The field-work was completed in all the *pakuthies* of the taluk, though the Survey records of only 8 out of the 16 *pakuthies* were furnished to the Land Revenue Department.

15. **Forests.**—The total area of reserved forests was 2,346 square miles and 220 acres, and of the reserved lands, 136 square miles and 155 acres. Out of the latter, it is proposed to set apart an area of 7 square miles and 400 acres for grazing. Two new areas were finally notified as reserved forests. The settlement of the Alapra Reserve in the Kottayam Forest Division has been pending for a long time, owing to boundary disputes between the Government and the Edapalli Chief. There is also a dispute with the Vanjipuzha Chief regarding the southern boundary of the Peruvantanam Desam. The early settlement of these long-standing questions being found necessary, Mr. N. Rajaram Row, B. A., Senior Division Assistant, was promoted as Supernumerary Dewan Peishkar and detailed for that duty. The working plans of the Yerur, Kulathupuzha and Arienkavu Working Circles were sanctioned towards the close of 1091 and operations are expected to be started during the current year. The fellings in the Sandalwood Tract of the Anchanad valley were commenced during 1091. The total quantity of timber removed from the forests in 1091 was 12,38,552 cubic feet, against 16,36,448 cubic feet in 1090, showing a decline of 3,97,896 cubic feet, while the stock in hand rose from 10,09,034 cubic feet to 11,85,932 cubic feet or by 1,76,898 cubic feet. The depression in trade generally accounts for a large portion of the accumulation of stock remaining in hand. The question whether the further exploitation of timber should not be restricted, pending the disposal of this accumulation, is under consideration. Another question engaging attention is the mortality among the elephants in the possession of the department. A Veterinary officer has been deputed for training under the Special Veterinary Inspector of the Madras Forest Service, and he will be drafted to the Forest Department on return. An additional area of 100 acres of teak plantations was newly opened in 1091, raising the total area of teak plantations to 3,894 acres. The steady increase in the volume of teak-planting operations rendered the formation of a separate Forest Division necessary and a new division under the name of 'The Plantation Division' was constituted tentatively for one year from the beginning of 1092.

16. **Salt.**—The duty on salt in British India was raised from Bh. Re. 1 to Bh. Re. 1-as. 4 per maund with effect from the 1st March 1916. Under the Interportal Convention, a similar increase was effected in this State also. It is satisfactory to note that the total quantity of salt consumed rose from 9,67,441 maunds in 1090 to 9,99,483 maunds in 1091, *i. e.*, by 32,042 maunds, and the average consumption per head of population from 23·3 lbs. to 24·2 lbs., which is the highest figure on record. The total out-turn of home salt also rose from 3,41,639 maunds in 1090 to 4,76,903 maunds in 1091, *i. e.*, by 1,35,264 maunds, the percentage of out-turn to the total consumption being nearly 48.

17. **Excise.**—97,041 proof gallons of country spirits were consumed during the year, against 1,13,723 gallons in 1090, showing a decline of 14·7 per cent. As compared with 1089, the decline was as much as 30 per cent. As stated in m last Address, the Government would only feel happy to be assured that the

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